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BLISTER RUST NEWS SERVICE

Clip Sheet No. 2. a

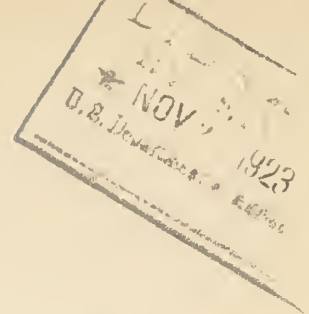
(Not to be released before August 8, 1923).

Protection of White Pine from Blister Rust Pays Big Dividends.

The experience of the past 7 years in controlling the white pine blister rust has proven conclusively that control measures pay well. Protection is accomplished by the destruction of all kinds of wild and cultivated currants and gooseberry bushes, within 900 feet of the pines. These bushes spread the disease but at greater distances are seldom seriously destructive to pines. The only exception is the cultivated black currant which may infect pine within a radius of one mile. No other plants spread the blister rust to white pine and the disease can not spread directly from pine to pine.

In the northeastern states, the cost of destroying currant and gooseberry bushes averaged about 20 cents per acre, last year. This low cost represents the average expenditure for cleaning up large areas in the different States. The cost of protecting the individual pine lot may be more or less, depending largely upon the number of bushes to be uprooted, the character of ground to be covered and the efficiency of individuals doing the work. Where effective control work is done re-eradication will not be necessary for at least 5 to 10 years or longer, except perhaps in local areas where the bushes were originally very numerous.

Assuming re-eradication necessary in 5 years, the cost of protection per acre would amount to 4 or 5 cents per year. According to U. S. Forest Service figures the average even-aged, fully-stocked white pine lot should yield by its 40th year at least 23,500 board feet, while stands on best sites should yield 32,800 board feet. At a stumpage rate of \$10.00 per thousand board feet, this 40 year old pine would be worth from \$235 to \$328 per acre. At 5 cents per year for protection from the blister rust, the cost for 40 years would be but





\$2.00 per acre on protected areas, plus interest charges. This leaves a net income of \$233 to \$326 from the land, whereas on unprotected areas the value of the crop would be seriously reduced by blister rust, and in areas where currants and gooseberries are abundant, the rust would cause a total loss of the crop.

An example of the potential profit in pine protection is illustrated by work done in the town of Petersham, Mass., where control measures have been applied. In this town, 650,076 currants and gooseberries were destroyed on 11,426 acres which contained an aggregate of 7075 acres in white pine. The cost of protecting this pine, the value of which was estimated at \$241,460 necessitated an expenditure of only 1.85 per cent of the pine value.

Consult your local blister rust agent care of your Farm Bureau, or the State Forester and solicit their advice concerning the best methods of protecting your pines against the blister rust.

